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Committee on the Rights of the Child
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Summary record of the 2119th meeting
Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Thursday, 26 May 2016, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Mezmur

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The meeting was called to order at 10.00 a.m.

Consideration of reports of States parties (*continued*)

Fifth periodic report of Pakistan (continued) (CRC/C/PAK/5, CRC/C/PAK/Q/5 and Add.1)

1. *At the invitation of the Chair, the Delegation of Pakistan took seats at the Committee table.*

2. **Mr. Khan** (Pakistan) said that the Government had launched a deradicalization programme and had opened a centre providing educational and psychological support, among other services, to deradicalize young people and facilitate their social reintegration. Legislation passed in 2015 had provided for the establishment of detention and rehabilitation centres, which had been hugely successful. A 20-point national action plan adopted in 2015 envisaged the development of a new narrative in Pakistan that promoted a humane, progressive and dynamic version of Islam and rejected fanatical interpretations. Awareness-raising campaigns were being run to educate young people, and private media had been asked to devote 10 per cent of their airtime to broadcasting anti-radicalization messages. The Government had also engaged on the issue with religious leaders, including imams and heads of madrasas. A broad range of stakeholders, including all political parties represented in the Parliament, civil and military authorities and religious and secular leaders, had come together to agree to tackle extremism, and the Government was focused on making Pakistan a peaceful place.

3. Two legislative frameworks were in place to combat trafficking in human beings: one which covered human trafficking offences sensu stricto, and one which covered abductions and kidnappings. Both covered domestic and international instances of such offences. The police force and the new Federal Investigation Agency shared jurisdiction over internal cases.

4. NGO-run shelters set up in every city provided legal and medical assistance, most of which was free of charge. Ultimate responsibility for the operation of such centres lay with the provincial authorities. There was room for improvement in the provision of shelters and the National Action Plan to improve the human rights situation approved in February 2016 envisaged the creation of a nationwide network.

5. Numerous toll-free telephone helplines were available for children in Pakistan. The Ministry of Human Rights ran a 24-hour helpline, with lawyers providing legal advice in eight-hour shifts. The Prime Minister's Office also ran a helpline, and various others were operated by NGOs and provincial governments.

6. The Government had established four judicial training academies, including one at the federal level, which had been granted degree-awarding status. The academies were run by the judiciary, using government funds. Judges underwent mandatory training upon their appointment, and subsequently at five-year intervals. Some NGOs also provided specialist training to judges, lawyers and police officers. Each province had its own police academy. In 2014, 1,000 female lawyers had been trained with assistance from the United Nations, and the International Labour Organization (ILO) had provided training for judges and other legal professionals on the rights of children. Every senior official in the country had undergone some form of human rights training in the previous decade.

7. Juvenile courts did not currently exist in the country but their introduction was being considered, despite the very low number of cases involving minors. Separate family courts did exist, most of which were presided over by female judges.

8. Section 6 of the Juvenile Justice Ordinance provided that judges could dispense with the need for child victims and/or child defendants to be present in court. Provided they had

a lawyer to represent them, such children could be released from the obligation to attend court each day should they be unwell or need to attend school. Judges also had the authority to refer any child suspected of having mental health issues to a doctor. Child defendants determined to have serious mental health issues could be discharged from the proceedings.

9. The provisions of common law were followed when determining whether or not a person was a minor. Sworn affidavits were usually accepted by judges. Section 7 of the Juvenile Justice Ordinance required judges to give due regard to medical reports. Public records were presumed to be genuine, and a presumption of truth was attached to birth or school certificates presented as proof of age. The burden of proof lay with the person making assertions regarding the age of another.

10. **The Chair** (Country Task Force) asked what happened in cases where the defendant's status as a minor at the time of the crime was not submitted in evidence to a lower court but was later raised before a higher court.

11. **Mr. Khan** (Pakistan) said that issues surrounding the age of a defendant could be raised in either of the two lower-level courts, namely the local trial court or the provincial high court. New evidence could not be considered by the Supreme Court but, when such evidence emerged, the Supreme Court judge could remand the case to the trial court. In some instances, such as in the case of Shafqat Hussain, the question of the defendant's age had not been raised at all during the court proceedings, but had subsequently been taken up by NGOs. In that particular case, a committee had been formed, an investigation carried out and a separate judicial review filed with the high court.

12. **Ms. Ayoubi Idrissi** asked whether the human rights training given to police officers was of a purely academic nature, or whether practical aspects were also covered; how many, if any, prosecutions had taken place following the 58 cases of torture of children reported in Faisalabad; and what the outcome of those prosecutions had been. In addition, she would appreciate an update on progress made since the State party's ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; on the situation of those NGOs that, according to information received by the Committee, had been blacklisted for having provided assistance to child victims of sexual abuse; and on the support that the State party provided to NGOs in general.

13. **Mr. Nelson** (Country Task Force) asked whether national legislation made provision for the Supreme Court to review new evidence identified post-trial and, if not, whether the State party considered that the introduction of such a provision might be useful.

14. **Mr. Khan** (Pakistan) said that while there was no direct legislation in place, the Supreme Court was able to prevent miscarriages of justice by remanding cases to the trial court if new evidence was introduced. The Supreme Court was empowered to provide complete justice and, under article 184 (3) of the Constitution, could reopen any case deemed to fulfil the two test criteria of, firstly, being of public importance and, secondly, involving fundamental rights. Petitioning the Supreme Court to reopen cases had become a popular course of civil action, but lawyers had asked the Supreme Court to limit the frequency with which it exercised those powers.

15. Human rights training covered human rights treaties, including the recently ratified Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Some police officers received practical training but most human rights training was theoretical in nature. The delegation would welcome the Committee's suggestions as to how improvements in that area might be achieved.

16. There were 40,000 NGOs operating in Pakistan. Of that total, 33,000 were unregistered and over 31,000 did not submit annual reports to the Government as required by law. Registration was straightforward, however, and the Government took a liberal

approach to oversight. There was no official blacklisting system but it was possible that some local instances had occurred. The majority of overseas aid entering Pakistan, including the aid received from the Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, went directly to NGOs and was not vetted by the Government. Improvements did need to be made to the registration and reporting system but, while international NGOs operating in Pakistan were cooperative, some local NGOs refused to address accountability issues.

17. **Mr. Mangi** (Pakistan) said that the Government engaged with an alliance of 400 NGOs in capacity-building and issues relating to child sexual abuse and that the Ministry of Human Rights provided a toll-free helpline number for the use of an NGO working to combat the trafficking of women and children. The Government had a good working relationship with all such NGOS and did not generally scrutinize their activities.

18. **Mr. Khan** (Pakistan) said that, ever since a major Power had engaged the services of a local NGO to organize a polio vaccination campaign as a means to obtain information and plan attacks, the Government had had no choice but to subject certain NGOs to increased scrutiny in order to ensure, inter alia, that they were not associated with foreign powers. Extremists had also used NGOs to obtain information and in some cases to organize the abduction or killing of polio workers, leading the Government to provide military protection for health-care workers operating polio vaccination schemes wherever required.

19. **Mr. Hafeez** (Pakistan) said that the polio eradication programme was now back on track and the aim was to eradicate the virus completely by the end of 2017. Only 11 cases had been reported in 2016, compared with more than 300 in 2014. Those cases had been concentrated in three reservoir areas and were being treated. The Government-funded National Emergency Action Plan for Polio Eradication was updated annually and monitored closely by a high-level task force. In addition, the Prime Minister held a monthly focus group with officials from the provinces. The current focus was on identifying hard-to-reach communities, implementing community-based interventions, using the injectable polio vaccine and conducting effective communication campaigns.

20. Under the Expanded Programme on Immunization, all eligible children were vaccinated against nine diseases free of charge. Projects to procure vaccines and ensure coverage in remote areas had been allocated more than 40 billion rupees for the next three years. Polio vaccination campaigns were conducted 8 to 10 times a year and required around 100,000 polio teams, working in close coordination with the security agencies. The rate of full vaccination among children was currently 60 per cent and rates of immunization against individual diseases were much higher. To improve coverage, a vaccination tracking system had been piloted and a conditional cash transfer scheme initiated to provide incentives for families. The recently adopted 10-point plan of action to address issues relating to reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and nutrition also identified immunization as a priority area.

21. A comprehensive support programme had been launched to improve child nutrition and Pakistan had joined the international Scaling-Up Nutrition movement. Under various national and provincial programmes, nutritional supplements were provided to pregnant women and children, cases of acute malnutrition were treated in special facilities, and awareness campaigns were carried out by community health workers. More than 100,000 lady health workers worked with women in poor rural areas to address issues relating to nutrition, immunization, reproductive health, family planning and maternal health. Tharparkar District had benefited from multiple interventions to improve nutrition in recent years, including the establishment of acute malnutrition treatment centres, the provision of food supplements and medicines, the introduction of ambulance services and a reinforcement of human resources. As a result, the situation had improved significantly.

22. The threat posed by pneumonia and diarrhoea was being addressed through the National Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Programme, the Expanded Programme on Immunization and the work of local health-care facilities and lady health workers, who were trained in community case management of those diseases. Primary and secondary health-care facilities had been upgraded, a pneumonia vaccine had been introduced two years previously and there were plans to introduce a rotavirus vaccine in 2017.

23. The maternal mortality rate had dropped by almost half in the previous two decades, the skilled birth delivery rate had almost doubled, and was now around 55 per cent, and half of all deliveries now took place in medical institutions. Around 20,000 community midwives had been providing skilled birth attendance at the local level for the previous 10 years. Childbirth complications such as obstetric fistula were increasingly being avoided owing to the growing prevalence of institutional delivery and projects conducted in collaboration with international partners were addressing the problem in rural and remote areas. Breastfeeding promotion campaigns were organized under the National Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Programme and innovative measures such as cognitive behavioural therapy had been piloted to promote breastfeeding at the community level.

24. Community awareness campaigns were in place to address the issue of teenage pregnancy and, as a result of measures to improve access, the contraceptive prevalence rate had increased to almost 35 per cent. However, that rate needed to be increased further. A special curriculum to address issues relating to adolescent health was being piloted in schools and in pre-service training for health-care professionals.

25. The Mental Health Ordinance protected the rights of people with mental health issues and a robust system was in place to ensure its implementation. With the support of the World Health Organization (WHO), the Pakistani health authorities were piloting the Mental Health Gap Action Programme to integrate mental health treatment in primary care.

26. Children with disabilities would benefit from the Prime Minister's Health Insurance Programme, which currently covered around 10 million people but aimed ultimately to cover 70 million. The Ministry of Health had recently launched a priority assistive products list, which would increase the availability of such devices for persons with disabilities and for older persons.

27. Projects to combat HIV/AIDS were implemented by the national and provincial administrations, adding to the services provided by health-care facilities. Targeted programmes were also being conducted with the support of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Around US$ 20 million had been allocated under the Global Fund and a similar amount had been contributed by the Government for the implementation of relevant projects over the next three years. There were around 100,000 HIV-positive people in Pakistan, the majority of whom were injecting drug users living in urban areas. Screening tests and antiretroviral drugs, including second-generation drugs, were provided free of charge and injecting drug users were provided with clean syringes to avoid infection. The rate of mother-to-child HIV transmission was negligible.

28. **Ms. Aho Assouma** (Country Task Force), noting that the Taliban had banned vaccination in certain Federally Administered Tribal Areas some years previously, asked whether that issue had been resolved. She would be interested to know whether Pakistan had suffered any significant measles epidemics and, if so, how they had been addressed. She asked how the State party would increase the low child immunization rate in Balochistan and whether efforts had been made to reach the many thousands of children in the country who had not been vaccinated under the most recent campaign. Referring to reports that inaccurate child mortality figures had been submitted for Tharparkar District, administrative failures had occurred in the distribution of food to that area and the

Government had failed to provide local hospitals with additional doctors, she asked what was being done to address those issues. Was there an irrigation system in place in Tharparkar to allow the population to continue to grow crops and feed their livestock?

29. **The Chair** asked what was being done to address the significant gender gap apparent in vaccination rates for children aged between 12 and 23 months. The cost of immunization per child had increased by 40 per cent over the previous decade and the coverage rate appeared to have stagnated. Was that the case? He would welcome information on the follow-up given to the Global Action Plan on Pneumonia and Diarrhoea and progress made in reaching the polio eradication target.

30. **Mr. Hafeez** (Pakistan) said that significant efforts had been made to address the ban on vaccinations imposed by the Taliban. As a result, only 5,000 children in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas had not been reached by the immunization programme in 2016, compared with 350,000 in 2013. Social workers cooperated closely with the community to ensure that all children under five years of age received the necessary vaccinations and conditional cash transfer schemes were being implemented in districts with low immunization rates. The Government of Pakistan had entered into an agreement with the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, which provided vaccines on the condition that coverage targets were met. The cost of immunization had increased owing to the addition of new antigens. Under the Comprehensive Multi-Year Plan for immunization, provinces had to reach gender targets before qualifying for further disbursements. The new rotavirus and pneumococcal vaccines had been introduced as a result of follow-up to the Global Action Plan on Pneumonia and Diarrhoea.

31. With regard to polio transmission, Pakistan and Afghanistan were treated as a single epidemiological block, which meant that parallel efforts were required in the two countries in order to ensure eradication. Owing to recent unforeseen circumstances, the target for polio eradication had been revised but good progress was being made. Specific measures had been taken to address the situation in Tharparkar and reliable data had been compiled through independent reviews.

32. **Ms. Aho Assouma** asked what measures were in place to prevent the advertising of breast milk substitutes and the distribution of such products in health-care facilities. She would also be interested to hear whether systematic HIV screening was carried out during prenatal consultations.

33. **The Chair** said that he would welcome information on budget allocations to the public health sector. Were there any plans to address issues relating to staff turnover?

34. **Mr. Hafeez** (Pakistan) said that an ordinance protecting the practice of breastfeeding had been introduced under which boards composed of experts, regulators and policymakers had been set up at the federal and provincial levels to develop breastfeeding protection mechanisms. Publicity, advertisements, posters and all forms of banners promoting formula milk had been banned, including in health-care establishments. Interaction between prescribing medical professionals and representatives of companies selling formula milk was actively discouraged by the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council. Paediatricians, gynaecologists, community midwives and other paediatric health workers were trained to promote breastfeeding and a pilot study had demonstrated that an approach based on cognitive behaviour therapy could lead to a significant increase in the practice. All pregnant women were entitled to four antenatal check-ups, during which tests for a number of diseases were carried out; 59 per cent of women took advantage of that service. A federal Ministry of Health taskforce had been set up with the involvement of relevant stakeholders to address the issues currently affecting Tharparkar District and the mortality rate had fallen in that area.

35. One of the main aims of the recently prepared National Health Vision, which had been based, among other things, on health financing and human resources planning and forecasting, was to increase the share of the national budget allocated to health from around 1 per cent to 4 per cent over the next five years, in fulfilment of the relevant WHO recommendations. Responsibility for delivering health-care services had been devolved to the provincial authorities, which had raised their health budgets over the past few years. A health insurance scheme had been launched, to which 20 billion Pakistan rupees had been allocated. A national human resources strategy designed to increase staff retention, by delegating certain tasks to less specialized health workers, and to encourage the recruitment of local staff had also been put in place.

36. **Ms. Parsi** (Country Task Force) asked whether increases in the education budget were sufficient to fund efforts to achieve the goal of free and compulsory education for all children aged between 5 and 16 years old. She would like to know how the Government intended to address regional discrepancies in the field of education; to ensure that private schools receiving public funding through public-private sector association schemes were not imposing fees and other payments that led to the exclusion of students from economically deprived backgrounds; to increase enrolment in preschool education; to incorporate the issues of tolerance and pluralism into the school curriculum; to ensure that teachers received training in human rights that equipped them to address ethnic and religious hatred and violence; to reduce school absenteeism rates among adolescents; to ensure that more adolescents received training; and to create a safe learning environment. Information on action plans to ensure that all children received an education and Government strategies and resources for tackling the consequences of recent terrorist attacks and natural disasters would be welcome. Furthermore, what measures were being taken to eliminate *bacha-bazi*, the sexual abuse of dancing boys by older men?

37. **The Chair** said that the number of child labourers in the State party remained extremely high. He would like details of any measures taken to protect child labourers working in the informal sector and an update on the status of the raft of bills on bonded and child labour that had been put forward in various provinces. He would also appreciate the delegation's views on the minimum age at which minors should be permitted to engage in hazardous work, which was currently 14 years, an update on a study of children in street situations recently carried out in Karachi, and information on efforts to address child neglect and abuse and violence against children perpetrated by law enforcement officials.

The meeting was suspended at 11.35 a.m. and resumed at 11.55 a.m.

38. **Mr. Khan** (Pakistan) said that Tharparkar District was not currently suffering from drought but rather from water shortages attributable, among other things, to the desert-like nature of the local terrain. The Government had installed several hundred tube wells in the area and local infant mortality rates were only slightly higher than those in other parts of Sindh Province. The State had provided the local population with free wheat and flour on a number of occasions over the past decade and the Prime Minister was monitoring the situation.

39. Under article 25 (a) of the Constitution, education was free and compulsory between the ages of 5 and 16 years. Additional schools were being built and 110 million rupees in income-support payments had been distributed to families living in poverty to enable them to send their children to school. Technical assistance for those projects had been provided by ILO. Following the introduction of new legislation in Punjab Province, 400 employers had recently been arrested on suspicion of employing child labourers.

40. Women, men and minors under the age of 18 years were held in separate detention facilities throughout the country, with the possible exception of a few isolated areas in Balochistan Province. Conditions of detention, although sometimes harsh, were monitored

regularly by Government officials and NGO staff, and by independent judges on a monthly basis. *Jirgas* (tribal councils of elders) could rule on civil but not criminal matters. The Government had initiated an extremely severe crackdown on *jirgas* issuing illegal rulings and the situation had greatly improved. Detainees could access free legal assistance and more than 500 million rupees had been allocated to that area for 2017. Fund allocations at the district level would be determined by mixed panels composed of representatives of the judiciary, the State, the local bar association and civil society.

41. **Mr. Mangi** (Pakistan) said that around 1.7 million persons had benefited from a social protection programme targeting vulnerable families and that, as of 2014, a total of 65 billion rupees had been distributed to such families. Crisis centres had been set up across the country to provide women and children with shelter, psychosocial support, legal assistance and counselling. Following its decentralization, the Social Welfare Department now had a presence in every district and was better positioned to support vulnerable families. The Benazir Income Support Programme also disbursed large amounts of money to vulnerable families.

42. There were over 600 orphanages run by the State in cooperation with NGOs, although children were only placed in them as a last resort. A number of SOS Children's Villages had also been set up. A law on the supervision and control of orphanages had been introduced. Orphanages were funded by the Government and wealthy individuals who, in total, donated over 70 billion rupees per year to the poor. The National Commission for Child Welfare and Development had devised operational standards for orphanages and provided relevant training. A law on child sex abuse and protection had also recently been enacted, consultations concerning its implementation were currently being held with judges, police officers, teachers, psychologists and human-rights activists and the corresponding training manuals for police instructors were being prepared. Judicial academies at the federal and provincial levels provided police officers with training on child protection and high-ranking police officials received training in how to fulfil the State's obligations under the various international instruments to which it was a party. Treaty implementation cells had been set up in each province to strengthen coordination in implementing and providing training on the Convention.

43. **Mr. Hafeez** (Pakistan) said that, despite the decentralization process, key laws on the prohibition of child labour and the rescue and rehabilitation of victims, such as the 1992 Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act and the 1991 Employment of Children Act, remained in force. The Government of Punjab Province had recently launched a 6 billion-rupee campaign to bring employers of child labourers to justice and rehabilitate child and bonded labourers. A bill on the protection of child labourers had been adopted in Sindh Province and the local authorities were currently designing a programme to combat bonded labour. Similar legislation was before the Government of Balochistan Province for consideration. There were currently 24 million children not attending school in Pakistan but the Benazir Income Support Programme and the Aurat Foundation had between them succeeded in enrolling 1.2 million girls in 36 districts. Child-labour rehabilitation centres had been set up across the country to provide vocational training and basic education.

44. **Mr. Tahir** (Pakistan) said that, although control over education policy had been devolved to the provinces, the federal Government coordinated policy implementation and provided assistance. Spending on education at the federal and provincial levels had significantly increased over the past four years as a consequence of efforts to reduce regional discrepancies. Teacher training, which had recently been modernized, was one of the most important responsibilities of provincial education departments and was conducted from the provincial level down to the Tehsil level. Almost all provinces ran annual capacity-building programmes for teachers.

45. Textbooks were free for all children in grades 1 to 10. The Prime Minister had announced a pilot scheme to provide free transportation to and from schools in the Islamabad Capital Territory and the Government had provided 400 buses to that end. Other provinces were likely to copy that scheme, since the eighteenth constitutional amendment had encouraged competition in the education sector. Over the previous three years, various enrolment drives had been run at the federal and provincial levels and, from 1 April to 30 April 2016, the central Government had run a drive to increase school enrolment and attendance under which incentives had been distributed to children.

46. Many initiatives had been launched in Pakistan to improve the education of girls. For example, the country had cooperated with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to launch the Malala Fund to address the issue. Targeting approximately 16 districts, the Fund provided trained teachers and incentives for girls to attend school, involved local communities and improved the facilities available in girls' schools. Although women could attend all higher education institutions in both the public and the private sectors, the country also had 4 women-only universities, around 1,000 women-only colleges and 4 women-only medical schools.

47. Because it was not possible to build primary schools in some remote parts of the country, the Government had launched a programme of feeder schools. Each feeder school was provided with a teacher and all the equipment necessary to teach between 20 and 40 local children in an informal setting. More than 600 such schools had been established. The Government had also established 12,000 basic education community schools in parts of the country where regular schools could not be opened and had recruited approximately 140,000 teachers through a national competition. Teachers were trained to demonstrate tolerance and adaptability.

48. The eighteenth amendment had made the coordination of provincial education policies a more complex process. For that reason, the Government organized an interprovincial education ministers' conference three times per year. The conferences were chaired by the federal Ministry of Education and served as a mechanism for monitoring policy development in the education sector and sharing best practice.

49. Despite many advances, a great deal remained to be done to bring the approximately 24 million Pakistani children who did not go to school into education. However, Pakistan was one of the States benefiting from the UNESCO E-9 Initiative to achieve education for all in nine high-population countries and the Government had begun a number of supporting initiatives, including the establishment of 50,000 additional basic education community schools.

50. The development of the national curriculum was one of the Prime Minister's key priorities. Although the eighteenth amendment had granted provinces the right to develop their own curricula, it had been decided at one of the interprovincial education ministers' conferences that all schools in the country should follow a single curriculum. The newly established National Curriculum Council, on which all provinces were represented, had been mandated to set national standards and quality indicators for education that would ensure symmetry and harmony in the provision of education across Pakistan. It had also been mandated to design a national curriculum framework and to review the national curriculum, which had last been revised in 2006. That revision had taken account of recommendations issued to the Government and had drawn on modern teaching techniques including activity-based learning and learning outcomes assessment. The next revision would take place in December 2016.

51. Although article 25 (a) of the Constitution set standards for the education of children between 5 and 16 years of age, it did not cover early childhood education for children aged 3 and 4 years old. However, the National Education Policy had been placed under review

following changes to legislation governing the education sector and the updated policy would include a chapter on early childhood education and development. There was already a national curriculum and teacher training manual for early childhood education. The private sector was making a major contribution to the provision of high-quality early childhood education and almost 40 per cent of State schools ran a pre-primary *kachi* class, although they were not always taught by qualified teachers. A recent study had shown that further work was needed to improve early childhood education in Pakistan.

52. Inclusive education had been made a priority in the 2009 National Education Policy. In the academic year 2005/06, a pilot project had been run in Islamabad, with the support of the Governments of Norway and Indonesia, under which 847 children with minor disabilities had been integrated into the mainstream education system and 460 teachers had received specialist training. The updated National Education Policy due for publication in December 2016 would contain a chapter on inclusive education.

53. Over the previous three years, the Government had implemented a monitoring mechanism to combat absenteeism among teachers and students, which had proved highly successful. Management information systems had been rolled out at both the national and provincial levels. In Punjab Province, a cadre of inspectors had been established. Each inspector was responsible for 16 schools and monitored various indicators, including the rate of teacher absenteeism.

54. **Ms. Muhamad Shariff** (Coordinator, Country Task Force) noting that, in 2011, the Ministry of Interior had agreed to delegate responsibility for religious education in the curriculum to Ittehad-e-Tanzeemat-e-Madaris Pakistan (ITMP, an umbrella organization of religious schools), asked how the Government planned to monitor the teaching of religious education and ensure that it met national standards. She also invited the delegation to respond to reports that madrasas were exploiting children commercially and had become breeding grounds for extremist ideologies. She would like more information about the situation of internally displaced persons living in camps, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where a lack of safe drinking water and sanitation and health-care facilities had caused outbreaks of communicable diseases and a lack of security had increased the risk of sexual harassment, abuse, abduction and trafficking. What was the Government doing to protect children living in those circumstances?

55. **Mr. Nelson**, noting that boys in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas had been abducted by security forces under the Protection of Pakistan Act 2014, the Actions (in Aid of Civil Power) Regulation 2011 and the Frontier Crimes Regulation 2011, asked whether the delegation could comment on those enforced disappearances. He also urged the State party to provide the previously requested information on the allegations made against the Faisalabad police and figures for the number of recorded cases of torture at the hands of the police, particularly cases that had been investigated or prosecuted, and the number of children who had been tried under antiterrorism laws and the Hadood Ordinances.

56. The State party was facing many challenges, but was evidently committed to the defence of the rights of the child. The Committee's main concern remained the imposition of the death penalty on persons aged under 18 years old.

57. **Mr. Khan** (Pakistan) said that he wished to thank the members of the Committee for their work and assure them that replies to the questions raised in the final portion of the meeting would be provided shortly. The rights of the child were taken very seriously in Pakistan and his delegation would return to Islamabad with renewed energy and strength for their defence.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.